

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 191151
ORIGIN NODS-00

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 191151

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), MILI, MASS, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE FOR BEGIN REGARDING MILITARY
SHIPMENTS TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

REF: TEL AVIV 9575

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM BEGIN TO THE SECRETARY
WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY CHARGE BAR-ON THIS MORNING, JULY 28.

BEGIN TEXT

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DEAR MR. SECRETARY,

I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO TRANSMIT TO YOU
THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY,

AMBASSADOR SAM LEWIS TELEPHONED ME EARLY IN THE MORNING TO
CONVEY THE CONTENTS OF YOUR LETTER OF JULY 28.

HAVING READ THE LETTER WITH GREAT ATTENTION, I CONSULTED MY
COLLEAGUES WITHIN A FEW HOURS. I AGREE WITH YOU, WITHOUT

QUALIFICATION, THAT WE MUST COOPERATE AND MAKE ALL POSSIBLE
ENDEAVOURS TO BRING THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON TO AN END.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE IT FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE SYRIANS
ARE SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYING THE HOUSES OF THE CHRISTIANS
AND KILLING AND INJURING THEM BY THE SCORES. WE HAVE A
MORAL COMMITMENT NOT TO ALLOW A MASSACRE OF THE CHRISTIANS.
THEY TELL US, ALMOST DAILY, THAT THIS, IN FACT, IS THE
DANGER. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WILL ADVISE THEM STRONGLY
AGAINST WHAT COULD BE TERMED, 'PROVOCATIVE SNIPING.'

IN THE WAKE OF YOUR LETTER, MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE
DECIDED TO DELAY THE DESPATCH OF TANKS UNTIL YOUR VISIT
NEXT WEEK, WHEN WE SHALL CONSULT EACH OTHER DIRECTLY AND
PERSONALLY.

I CAN ONLY REPEAT MY REQUEST THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
IN DAMASCUS MAKES STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE SHELLING OF THE CHRISTIAN HOUSES
WHICH NOT ONLY CONSTITUTE A PROVOCATION BUT DESTRUCTION.
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LET US HOPE THAT, WITH OUR COMMON EFFORT, WE SHALL BRING
ABOUT A REAL CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON.

SINCERELY, MENACHEM BEGIN"

RESPECTFULLY, HANAN BAR-ON, CHARGE... END TEXT VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
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